

Pollution Prevention Is Up To You!

Did you know that stormdrains are NOT connected to treatment plants? In Pinellas County, stormdrains flow directly into our creeks, lakes, Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico without treatment.

The purpose of stormdrains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Yard waste entering stormdrains carries garden chemicals into waterways, releases harmful pollutants, creates algae blooms, and absorbs oxygen fish need to survive. Disposing of yard waste into stormdrains causes serious ecological problems – and is **PROHIBITED BY LAW**.

Only Rain Down the Stormdrain!

This brochure is one of a series describing storm water protection measures. To request additional brochures please contact:

Pinellas County
Watershed Management
(727) 464-4425

Other brochures in this series include:

- ✓ Concrete and Mortar Projects
- ✓ A Guide For Homeowners
- ✓ Landscaping Companies
- ✓ Pool Construction and Maintenance
- ✓ Power Washing



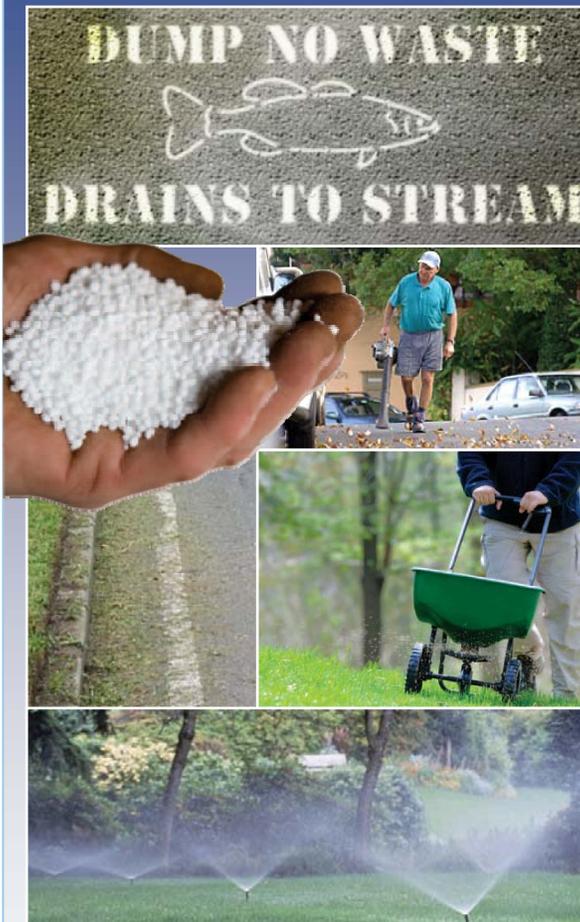
www.pinellascounty.org/environment

Produced in cooperation with the Pinellas County Communications Department.

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Funding for this brochure was provided by the NPDES and TMDL. 1,000 copies were printed at a cost of \$97.50 or \$0.097 each.

Guide to Pinellas County Fertilizer Use & Landscape Maintenance Ordinance



How to keep your yard looking great, save some money, and keep our waters fun!

Guide to the Pinellas County Fertilizer Ordinance

Pinellas County's fertilizer ordinance, Article XIII, Chapter 58, is intended to protect the water quality and natural habitats of creeks, lakes and marine waters that receive discharge from our stormdrain system. The ordinance regulates landscape maintenance practices and the sale and use of fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus within Pinellas County.

This means that homeowners, landscapers and lawn care services must adhere to specific practices as outlined in the ordinance.

Violators of the fertilizer ordinance may be fined up to \$10,000 per day.

How You Can Fertilize like a Floridian and Keep our Waters Fun

There are lots of ways to keep your yard looking great – while keeping algae-feeding nitrogen and phosphorous out of our waterways.

- Reclaimed water can contain high amounts of nutrients and fertilizers may not be needed. Check with your water supplier.
- Skip the phosphorous: The Tampa Bay region is naturally rich in phosphorous. Only use phosphorous-based fertilizer if a soil test turns up a deficiency.
- Newly-installed landscapes cannot efficiently use nitrogen; do not apply nitrogen for the first 30 days.
- Go slow by half: Nitrogen in lawn or landscape fertilizers must be at least 50% slow-release from Oct-May. Slow-release provides nourishment over a longer period, saving you money.
- Sweep it up. Whisk any fertilizer granules that fall onto sidewalks, streets or driveways back into the landscape.
- On your guard. Use a deflector shield on your fertilizer spreaders so you spread it only where you need it.
- Perfect 10. Keep fertilizer at least 10 feet away from any wetland or body of water.
- Keep the clippings. Don't blow your leaves or clippings into the road - leave them on your lawn. They can supply up to 50% of the nitrogen your grass needs.
- Watch the weather: Rainstorms don't water in fertilizer they wash it away, wasting your money and polluting our water.

Ask for credentials!

- ❖ All fertilizer applicators must display a Pinellas County vehicle decal.
- ❖ All landscape maintenance staff must be County-certified by 7/18/2011.

**Just say no to NITROGEN (N) and PHOSPHOROUS (P).
Pinellas County law bans the sale or use of any lawn or landscape fertilizer with N or P from June 1 to September 30.**

Pump some iron. Use Florida-friendly yard products that contain iron or other micronutrients to green up your lawn during the summer.

Who To Contact?

For any questions on disposal of waste, including fertilizers, pesticides or weed control products, contact the Pinellas County Department of Solid Waste Operations at (727) 464-7500.

For information or to report illegal dumping, please call (727) 464-4425, or e-mail watershed@pinellascounty.org

24-hour stormwater hotline: (727) 464-5060 (non-emergency spills only)

Emergencies: Please contact your local fire department.